

MEETING NOTES

Mayor's Advisory Committee—Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan
Public Works Complex – Large Conference Room
1820 Roosevelt Blvd.

February 4, 2004
7 p.m.

PRESENT: Nancy Nathanson, Chair; Cynthia Girling, Linda Swisher, Art Farley, Corey Dingman, Merle Bottge, Terry Leary, Tim Whitley, members; Renee Grube, Tim Patrick, Library, Recreation, and Cultural Services; Andrea Riner, Carrie Peterson, Sarah Medary, Parks and Open Space Division; David Sonnichsen, guest; Sally McIntyre, Misty Fisher, MIG, Inc.

I. WELCOME

Ms. Nathanson convened the meeting and asked those present to introduce themselves.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Nathanson invited members of the public to speak.

Terry with Harlow Neighbors Association, Thanked the committee for their great work. Expressed concern over tax payers paying for abandoned school property twice – once when purchased as school property and again if later purchased by the City as park property. Asked the committee to look closely at the distribution of newly acquired parkland throughout the neighborhoods.

Marci Cauthorne with Citizens for a Natural Amazon, Distributed a memo to committee members titled “Park Priorities” and copies of Eugene Weekly articles regarding Amazon Park. Stated that she would like the audience for this document to be called citizens rather than customers, and to consider which priorities are most important for the citizens at large. As shown in her memo, 85% of ballfields are on school district property. They seem to be more in that business than the City. Would like to see the City update fields we already have access to rather than developing more.

David Daugherty with Harlow Neighbors Association, Cautioned that while needs for sportsfields are currently been met by the school districts, closure of schools means the loss of facilities. When new schools are built it also results in a loss of green space.

III. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROCESS UPDATE

Ms. Riner announced that in response to a committee request searching for a way to facilitate hearing from neighborhoods and special interest groups, staff are organizing a Community Design Forum on April 3, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Churchill High School. This will be a chance to engage the community in where we have been, where we are going, and be able to have detailed discussions by the six planning districts:

- River Road/Santa Clara

- Bethel
- Central
- South Eugene
- Willakenzie
- Willow Creek

Ms. Riner extended the hope that all committee members would be in attendance at this event.

IV. PRELIMINARY STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK CONTINUED

A draft document titled Vision, Values, Mission, Goals, and Strategies was distributed for discussion.

A. Vision –

An interconnected and accessible system of vibrant public spaces, friendly neighborhood parks, thriving natural areas and diverse recreation opportunities makes our city a healthy, active, and beautiful place in which to work, live and play.

Discussion:

- Accomplishes the goal of being an inclusive statement.
- Consider a shorter “slogan” for the future.
- Start with a verb in each statement.
- Change “make” to “will make” (which makes it a goal), or start with “we envision.”
- Make recreation programming more evident.
- Should use present tense.
- Like adjective use.

B. Core Values –

Healthy Community

- We provide safe, well-maintained environments for healthy human development
- We incorporate art and creative expression into our programs and public spaces
- We are a positive contribution to our sense of community
- We create beautiful and diverse public spaces
- We contribute to a healthy community economy
- We promote volunteerism and community involvement

Equity

- We provide programs and places that are inclusive of all residents
- We honor diversity in people, ideas, and values
- We maximize the accessibility of our services
- We ensure services are equitably distributed throughout the community
- We maximize opportunities by providing affordable services

Vision

- We seek and support innovative and creative solutions
- We pursue, develop, and maintain strong community partnerships

- We provide and develop leadership within our community
- We provide a strong, positive, and courageous community vision

Customer Service

- We are accountable to our customers
- We seek to provide the highest quality programs and facilities
- We practice fiscal responsibility and make it our highest priority

Sustainability

- We base our parks and recreation system upon community strengths and values
- We pursue a strong understanding of our natural systems
- We support community stewardship of our built and natural environment
- We look into the future when making day-to-day decisions and work to create a legacy for future generations

Discussion:

- Start with a verb.
- Consider using Citizen instead of the word Customer - Get rid of “customer”.
- Include ecosystem health as part of “healthy community” component, as it is weak.
- Expand on sustainability:
 - We understand it, **and** we’re going to move forward with it.
 - Need to include fiscal sustainability.
- Present healthy community as contributing to the physical health of community members.
- Need to better organize the Vision paragraph.
- Replace Vision title with Community.
- Change “customer service” to “accountability.”
- Speak as a community instead of as staff.
- Reword the statement “provide and develop leadership.” This was meant to relate to staff.
- Include something under Service that states how important staff are (dedicated/committed).

C. Mission

Recreation Services: Strengthening our community by providing diverse recreation experiences.

Parks & Open Space: Contributing to a healthy community by providing stewardship for the preservation and enhancement of our parks, recreation, and open space system.

Discussion:

- Combine into one statement: Strengthening our community by preserving and enhancing our parks and open space system and providing diverse recreation experiences.

D. Goals

- Provide opportunities to enjoy nature and the outdoors
- Provide inclusive, accessible, and affordable programs and places
- Promote healthy human development through diverse recreation opportunities
- Contribute to individual and community health and wellness

- Build environmental stewardship through volunteer, environmental education and outdoor recreation opportunities
- Promote human understanding and sense of community through cultural opportunities
- Distribute parks, open space and recreation services equitably throughout the community
- Build and maintain sustainable parks, recreation, and open space infrastructure
- Protect and enhance high quality natural areas
- Make fiscal responsibility a high priority
- Pursue, develop, and maintain strong community partnerships

Discussion:

- Include ecosystem, possibly in bullet number five or somewhere else.
- State that we actively support preservation and restoration in the community.
- Change bullet three and four because they are too similar.
 - Be more specific
 - Possibly combine
 - Discuss different aspects
- Change bullet number three to say “lifelong human development.”
- Change bullet number four to say “support and enhance.”
- Consider adding something into this section about our Sister City’s’, Kakegawa, Japan, philosophy “Take time to smell the roses”.
- Include a goal for serving people not currently connected to our parks/programs and communities of colors.
- Elaborate on bullet number 11. State that we’re not just involved for fiscal reasons. Partners include individuals and groups.
- Include “inter-connectiveness” of our system, possibly in bullet number nine.

Strategy Categories

- Recreation Programs: Seniors, Youth & Family, Specialized Recreation, Athletics, Aquatics, Hult Center/Cuthbert, Volunteer Programs
- Parks: Neighborhood, Urban Plaza, Community, Metropolitan, Linear
- Community Facilities: Pools, Community Centers, Special Facilities
- Natural Areas: Ridgeline, West Eugene Wetlands, Stream Corridors, and other Natural Area Parks
- Access and Connectivity: Trails, accessibility, connectivity, bike system, public transit, transportation safety
- Park, Open Space & Recreation Facility Renovation
- Park, Open Space & Recreation Facility Maintenance
- Resource Development: Financial Resources, Partnerships, Volunteer Programs
- Management: Planning, Public Information, and Public Involvement

Discussion:

- Understand that our strategies are about moving ahead into the future.
- Need a physical picture of our assessment to understand this section better.
- Remember that we can change the organization of this section as we move forward.
- Remove the word Facility from both the Maintenance and Renovation categories.
- How do goals and strategies link together?

- Goals are overall.
- There will be a performance measure for each goal.
- Goals can relate to more than one strategy category.
- Provide a matrix with this information on it so we can better understand.

V. NEXT STEPS/CLOSE

Final words from Committee:

- Understand homeless peoples' needs for water and restrooms.
- We're getting focused, this was productive and felt good.
- Glad we're moving forward.
- Cynthia's class is doing a Charrette on February 24th as a visioning exercise. Cynthia will send a more detailed message out with dates and times for her class's presentations.
- Nancy requested that the school districts be contacted to get the latest copy of their vision. This would ensure that any ideas we have in our Plan consistent with their visions.

Next meeting scheduled for March 3, 2004 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. location tbd

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The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Carrie Peterson and Misty Butt)